

Date: 3/22/2012 2:55 PM
Subject: ADM File No. 2006-47

I file these comments on ADM File No. 2006-47 in conjunction with the comments filed by SCAO Forms and Records Manager, Amy El Garoushi, who has served the public and the Court very well in her work in advancing the use of technology for the Michigan Judiciary. For many years now multiple committees of the Michigan Supreme Court, State Court Administrative Office, and the State Bar of Michigan have been addressing the transformation of the Michigan Judiciary through the use of new technologies. Amy and I serve on many of these committees and I endorse her comments and thank her for her usual attention to detail. Thus I do not need to repeat her work, but I wish to contribute more to the context of this transformation process, in which these rule changes are proposed.

These proposed rule changes are needed to eliminate what have now become barriers to the use of needed technology. We expect there will be more proposed rule and statutory changes as the work of these committees identifies other barriers, or to solve new issues created by the migration to and use of new technology. These proposed rules are part of a much larger initiative to move our Judiciary into the digital information age, creating, maintaining, and providing the public, governmental agencies and the courts with accurate, comprehensive access to information. I encourage the readers of these comments to read the Final Report of the Technology Committee of the State Bar of Michigan (SBM) Judicial Crossroads Task Force to gain a more detailed review of this overarching initiative. The recommendations of the SBM Judicial Crossroads Task Force to implement these technology improvements have tremendous support and continue moving forward.

The Report outlines the current crisis of court technology; states our vision, mission, and goals; and outlines specific efforts for effecting change that provides for access to justice that is efficient, effective and promotes transparent fairness that our system demands. In these proposed rule changes we have attempted to incorporate all these interests, but if we have missed something we need to hear from you. To this end, I respectfully request an additional 60 days extension of the comment period.

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